

NURSING ECHOES.

The great career of Miss Florence Nightingale is to be told in a biography by Mr. E. T. Cook. Miss Nightingale is fortunate in her biographer, and Mr. Cook has a fine subject.

There will be an element of sorrow at the meeting of the Leicester Infirmity Nurses' League, on the 13th inst., as farewell must be said to Miss Gertrude Rogers in her capacity of Lady Superintendent of the Leicester Infirmity, as she vacates office at an early date. Upon this occasion an expression of gratitude and affection upon the part of hundreds of pupils who during the past twenty-five years have been trained under her care, and from other friends, is to find expression by the presentation of a gift to Miss Rogers. The fact that, after a rest, Miss Rogers means to take part in work for the benefit of the profession generally is good news. The scope is wide and the labourers are few!

Dr. Robert B. Campbell forwards to the *Asylum News* a resolution passed by the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association when it considered the terminology of the Lunacy (Scotland) Bill, which expresses the opinion that "It is highly desirable that the terms and designations employed in Acts of Parliament and official statements with respect to mentally affected persons should be such as are in harmony with present-day conceptions of the nature of mental disorders, and are not repellent to the feelings of the persons affected or of their relatives," and it begs to draw special attention to the words—'lunatic,' 'lunacy,' and 'pauper,' for which it would suggest as substitutes the words—'person of unsound mind,' 'mental disorder,' and 'public.' For the term 'Asylum for Lunatics,' it is suggested that as an alternative the term 'Hospital for Mental Disorders' might be substituted." These suggestions are eminently humane.

The annual report of King Edward's Coronation Fund for Nurses in Ireland states that the number of nurses who are members is now 217. The capital of the Society now consists of £5,095, and it is entirely a benevolent fund from which the members can receive help in time of need. The following Council was elected at the annual meeting:—Miss Kelly, Lady Superintendent, Steevens' Hospital; Miss

MacDonnell, R.R.C.; Mr. James Crozier, J.P.; Sir John Lentaigne, M.D.; Mr. Marcus Tertius Moses, J.P.; Sir Christopher Nixon, Bart.; Mr. T. A. O'Farrell, J.P.; Sir Lambert Ormsby, M.D.; Sir Andrew Reed, K.C.B., and Sir William Watson, D.L.; and the following five members as representatives of the nurses on the Council—Miss Powell, late Lady Superintendent Charlemont Hospital; Miss M'Givney, Lady Superintendent Mater Misericordiae Hospital; Miss Butler, Lady Superintendent Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital; Miss Mullaly, Sister, Steevens' Hospital; Miss Colvin, Lady Superintendent Mageough Home.

The Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association had a very successful picnic last week at Scrabo Tower, Newtonwards, after an enjoyable drive from Belfast. Thirty-seven of the members were present.

Miss B. V. Hedderman, a devoted district nurse in the South Island of Aran, Galway Bay, writes of the need for a lamp at some little eminence so that the islanders may be able to guide the currachs safely ashore, whether they are fishing or have to come across for special needs. She says:—

Though old barbarities are not possible here now, still, after all our connection with boards, congested or normal, old hardships are still existent in Aran, and it is not easy for outsiders not directly concerned to gauge the intensity of the strain of those who are obliged to grapple with these hardships.

The latest experience bearing on this occurred on Thursday night. A 2 a.m. call necessitated a three-mile voyage across the foul sound here, to the island of Inishman, with nothing to mark our passage but the faint phosphorescence of the waves, the darkness reaching its climax at the "slip," "our landing place," which the men could not discern for a long time. This caused considerable delay before I could reach the patient, who was in urgent need of my assistance.

Let any reasonable mind think for a moment on the lives endangered in this attempt to land in utter darkness, and, if there were no lives at all at stake, the safety of the fishermen's boats ought to be considered.

My own work, too, in the midwifery capacity, is important to those poor people, even though it is a function the usefulness of which is not fully comprehended by them, nor even by the department responsible for the health and birth rate. If this were not so, the matter would receive much more attention than it does.

It is true that coastguards and lighthouses abound, but the light from the latter is invisible

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